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Letter dated 8 March 2006 from the Deputy Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a note from the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica, Mr. Roberto Tovar Faja, requesting you to refer Costa Rica's application for membership in the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to the Economic and Social Council (see annex).

(*Signed*) Maria Elena **Chassoul**
Chargé d'affaires

* To be issued in E/2006/100.

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Annex to the letter dated 8 March 2006 from the Deputy Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that Costa Rica is interested in becoming a member of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Costa Rica has a long tradition of providing asylum and hosting refugees; thousands of men and women have received protection and enjoyed full respect for all their rights on Costa Rican soil.

Costa Rica's ratio of refugees received in relation to geographical size and resources is currently one of the highest in the world. With a surface area of only 51,000 square kms and slightly more than 4 million inhabitants, it has the largest number of persons with refugee status in Latin America (13,500) and continues to receive around 120 new applications every month. Refugee status is granted at an average rate of 53 per cent and is determined on the basis of very high standards.

It is our hope that the Economic and Social Council will respond favourably to this application by Costa Rica and recommend to the General Assembly that it enlarge the membership of the Executive Committee by one. In view of its experience in this area, Costa Rica could make a positive contribution to the work of the Executive Committee.

(*Signed*) Roberto **Tovar Faja**